

SECRET CONTROL  
HEADQUARTERS  
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SSU, WD MISSION TO AUSTRIA  
APO 777

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| REPORT MADE AT: | DATE:     | PERIOD COVERED: | MADE BY:   |
| Vienna          | 24 May 46 | - 24 May 46     | See para 1 |

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| SUBJECT; GENERAL: Project SYMPHONY                                     | STATUS: |
| SPECIFIC: Newspaper "Vilagossag" article on<br>Budapest Jewish Council | Pending |

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SOURCE: LILAC

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REFERENCE: LVX 216, LSX 257, LSX 41

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COMMENT:

*Rec'd Austrian  
Desk - Wash.  
30 Jul 46.*

1. In view of the fact that a trial of members of the Budapest Jewish Council before the Peoples' Court, will bring to light the activities and names of a number of persons who figured directly or indirectly in past operations (viz. BRANDT and GROSS). This translation of subject article is reproduced for all interested stations.

2. Since the Hungarian Political Police is an instrument of Russian Occupation Authorities, it appears that they are the actual sponsors of the trial.

3. The reference to Joel BRANDT is not borne out in fact, as DD 110 spoke with BRANDT in Vienna early in May 1946.

4. Reference to a Dr. WILHELM is contained in LSX 41:

Hungarian Jew. Often travelled to Turkey as a miscellaneous agent for the Hungarians. Interned following severe restrictions pertaining to Jews in Hungary; later thru Col. MERKLY's interest, was made driver for the Arbeitskolonnen. About 35 yrs; 1m70; c.70 kgs; clean shaven, proportionate face; black smooth hair; speaks German, Hungarian, French and English.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B26  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

EVALUATION: Factual

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APPROVED BY:  
*for transmittal*  
21 Aug 46

OFFICER IN CHARGE

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1. The following is a clipping from the Hungarian Social-Democrat newspaper "Vilagossag" (To the Light) of 24 May 1946. It is concerned with the Council of Jewry in Budapest and their behaviour during this war and after it. A number of personalities mentioned in this clipping have been subject of previous reports in this Project.

"SHORTLY THE SCANDAL OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL WILL  
COME BEFORE THE PEOPLE'S COURT

SOME OF THE ACCUSED HAVE ALREADY DISAPPEARED. NEW  
FACTS ABOUT THE JEWISH COUNCIL ARE UNCOVERED

"The Hungarian public looks forward with interest to the revelations which will be published soon by the newspaper Vilagossag on the activities of the Jewish Council during the time of the Nazis and the Arrow-Cross. We will not close our dossiers as long as this matter is not entirely cleaned up.

"A part of the collaborationist Jewish Council is still in charge, and they defend themselves mutually. In the meantime, the others have either fled or are now in possession of passports allowing them to leave the country. Time is pressing and we cannot allow that these swindlers and vampires of the Hungarian Jewry should leave the country before they have given complete account of their activities.

"The role played by the Jewish Council, their possession of Gestapo cards, their freedom from military service, their authorization to use taxis, and their exemption from the wearing of the Star of David, the permission they had to own a residence outside the ghetto, their possession of cards allowing them to enter and leave all public administrations; and finally whether they have used all these advantages for the good of the Hungarian Jewry, should be finally cleared up.

"It should be clarified whether the hyena of the public salesrooms and Jewish director of the Budapest housing office, Reszoe MUELLER had the support of the Budapest Jewry in concentrating them in a ghetto within three days, when it is known that the official housing office of Budapest had declared to the Gestapo and to ENDRE Laszlo (the State referent for Jewish affairs) that such an action was not even possible if they were to be given six weeks.

"We should demand complete account of the fantastic valuables (impossible to appraise in present-day currency)

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SECRET CONTROL

which were exchanged by the Budapest Jews and used for financing the Budapest Jewish Council and their activities. We demand a public accounting, as long as this possibility still exists, because those who liquidated these funds are still here and their employees are still in a position to account for the funds.

"The public should demand from Miklos KRAUSZ, Dr. Reszoe MEZEI, Zoltan FARKAS, Dr. Albert GEYER, Michael SALOMON, Dr. BRESZ-LAUER, Stefan TAUSZ and his wife, Laszlo IRITZ, Sandor GROSZMANN and their followers, what they have done to prevent the further blackmailing and plundering of the Jews.

"It should be ascertained whether or not it is true that a certain agency sold either permission not to wear the Star of David, or Swiss, Swedish and San Salvadorian citizenships. Is it true that the leader of this agency, who was capable of anything, cashed daily millions of currency and then delivered them to the Szabadsagter 12 \*.

KASTNER, RESZO, DR. BRESZLAUER, MEZEI AND THE OTHERS

"Is it true that at Szabadsag-ter 12 in the Protective Passport Office there are safes stocked with different foreign currencies, gold coins and large amounts of Hungarian currency? It should also be clarified whether Mrs. KRAUSZ and Mrs. FARKAS, who begged for their lives, called the Jews who came to the Swiss consulate "Ghetto dung" and ordered that they should be thrown out.

"Is it also true that Dr. MEZEI had ordered that only his agents were entitled to protective passports? Are the accusations true which state that Dr. BRESZLAUER sold the protective passports, destined to poor Jews in concentration camps, to rich Jews? Is it true that Reszoe KASTNER was the confidante of the Gestapo and that the Gendarmerie Lieutenant Colonel, Laszlo FERENCZY (now condemned to death) who arrested him, was liberated after three days? This KASTNER, who became rich through theft, plunder and blackmail, now lives in a luxury hotel in Zurich, while before the war he was a mediocre writer from Klausenburg. Later, as confidante of the Gestapo, he did intelligence work for them in Hungary and abroad. Do the members of the Jewish Council know that KASTNER who worked with them was working in Pressburg as an SS 1st Lt. before the end of the war?

Note: \* Address of the Swiss Consulate in Budapest during the war.

SECRET CONTROL

- 2 -

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SECRET CONTROL

"Do the members of the Jewish Council know that KASTNER's partner, Joel BRANDT, was sent by the Gestapo to Istanbul as a spy? This Joel BRANDT is now allegedly arrested by the British in Syria as a German spy and may have been killed in the meantime.

MORE QUESTIONS

"Are the following accusations true: That the members of the Jewish Council spared their friends and relatives from military duties and that they were dispensed from living in Jewish quarters until the ghettos were officially instituted, and also spared them from fortifications work (digging ditches).

"Does the Jewish Council know that the orders to participate at the fortifications work on Sundays were made only by the delegates of the Jewish Council, although the Christian administration refused to work on Sundays?

"Does the Jewish Council know that it was possible to be dispensed from military duties, from deportation and from fortifications work by paying for it?

"These accusations, which could be continued for pages and which should be brought before the People's Court were perpetrated by the above mentioned for their own profit, they delivered their brothers to the Nazis and the Arrow-Cross people, and sent them to certain death.

BEFORE THE PEOPLE'S COURT

"The Political Police has closed a part of the investigations. Soon the results will be communicated to the People's Court, which is taking forward to it eagerly and who will put the accusations to those who collaborated to complete the tragedy of Hungarian Jewry.

"It should be noted, however, that there are a certain number of members of the Jewish Council, who, unluckily without result, have honestly tried to save the Jews of Budapest. There is no country where the so-called Jewish Council has not been accused.

SECRET CONTROL

- 3 -

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"In February of this year, the members of the so-called Jewish Central Office in Bucharest were condemned, although they were not so heavily guilty as the members of the Jewish Council in Budapest.

"The president of the Budapest Jewish Council was Samuel STERN. Its members: Dr. Karl WILHELM, the fugitive Phillip FREUDIGER, Dr. Ernoe BODA, Dr. Bela BEREND, Lajos STOECKLER, Dr. Josef NAGY, Dr. Bela PETOE. Its chief functionaries were Jenoe BAUER, Paul FREUND, Miksa DOMONKOS, Reszoe MUELLER, Ernoe MUNKACSI.

"We know the excellent work of the Political Police and are convinced that the responsible will be called to account very soon, before more of them have fled.

/s/ Laszlo ZSOINAI

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